

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Ukrainian SSR)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Removal of Melnikov as Ukrainian Party Secretary	DATE DISTR.	1 July 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The removal of Leonid Georgiyevich Melnikov from his post as First Secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party was a part of Beriya's policy of appointing only natives to posts in republics. 25X1
2. At the meeting of the Central Committee of the Ukraine in May or June after Stalin's death, Lavrentiy P. Beriya made a speech accusing Melnikov of inefficiency and incompetence and stated, falsely, that the Central Committee of the USSR had requested Melnikov's removal. Melnikov was then voted out. Beriya insisted that no copies of the proceedings be forwarded to the Central Committee and the Government, as is normally required, because he was himself the representative of both. No one dared to argue with this decision inasmuch as Lazar M. Kaganovich was also present throughout the affair. Kaganovich may have kept silent in a desire to remain friendly with Beriya, who was then a possible future head of the Government. Kaganovich had no part in Melnikov's removal and is believed to have been in the Ukraine at this time on entirely different business.
3. This affair was a matter of common knowledge in Moscow. At MVD conferences after Beriya's arrest, he was charged with promoting nationalism and creating problems among the various minorities, but no details of the action in the case of Melnikov or other irregularities were discussed. 25X1

Comment: The removal of Melnikov from his post as First Secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party was announced on 12 June 1953.

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